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Report

on the



*Health and Sanitary Circumstances
of the District
for the year ended*

December 31st, 1959

Medical Officer of Health

L. RICH, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

11 WEST STREET, CONGLETON. Telephone 3655/6

Senior Public Health Inspector

N. A. ROGERS, M.A.P.H.I.



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To the Chairman and Members
of the Sandbach Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1959 on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District of Sandbach.

The estimated population has risen slightly with a small fall in the number of births and fairly considerable drop in the number of deaths.

Of the known causes of death the high incidence has moved away from Infectious Diseases towards Malignancy and Cardio Vascular conditions. There is no doubt that much good can be done in the early detection of Cancer by a well planned and careful campaign in educating the public. In this respect the work of the Manchester Committee on Cancer whose pioneer efforts in education are proving successful has much to commend it and deserves support. It is hoped that in the near future trained speakers will visit our District to talk to small groups of people. I have investigated the methods they use and I am convinced that there is little danger of creating fear and distress by these methods and indeed experience gained so far has shown that these talks dispel many unfounded fears as well as achieving positive results.

During the year, measles continued to be very prevalent and although it is satisfactory to note that no deaths occurred, this disease causes much distress and may be the precursor of lung disease in later life. It also results in great dislocation in school attendances and is one of the major causes of absenteeism. It is satisfactory to note therefore that the Measles virus has at last been isolated and experiments are going on in the preparation and use of Measles Vaccine. Preliminary trials so far have proved promising, the vaccine definitely confers protection which appears

to be of long duration. It is to be hoped that in the near future this will become generally available thus assisting in removing one of the scourges of childhood.

A great amount of time was spent during the year in connection with the Poliomyelitis Vaccination both by your Medical Officer and his staff as well as by the Family Doctors. Large numbers of children and adults were dealt with and there is no doubt that the vaccination does appear to be having the effect of reducing both the incidence and severity of Poliomyelitis. The vaccination is now available to all below the age of 40 and despite the fact that it is a relatively painless and minor procedure there are still many thousands of people not making use of this valuable preventive measure.

Once again I wish to thank the Clerk, Mr. Skeath, and his staff, for their help and advice ; to Mr. N. A. Rogers, the Senior Public Health Inspector, and Mr. H. J. Rees, the Engineer and Surveyor, for their help in the compilation of this report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

L. RICH,

Medical Officer of Health

The figures in brackets are for the year 1958
to enable comparisons to be made

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Estimated Population 9880 (9840)

Births—

Live Births—			<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
Legitimate ...	...	143	(150)	71	(82)	72	(68)	
Illegitimate	...	3	(7)	1	(2)	2	(5)	
Still Births—								
Legitimate ...	...	3	(3)	2	(1)	1	(2)	
Illegitimate	...	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)	
Live birth rate per 1000 estimated average population mid-1959							14.7	(15.9)
Live birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 of the population							16.5	(16.4)
Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births							20.1	(18.7)
Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total (live and still) births							20.7	(21.6)
Still birth rate per 1000 total population							.3	(.3)
Still birth rate for England and Wales per 1000 total population							.35	(.36)

Infantile Mortality—

The total number of deaths is shown as follows :

The total number of deaths is shown as follows :							
				<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
Legitimate ...	...	—	(3)	—	(1)	—	(2)
Illegitimate ...	...	—	(1)	—	(1)	—	(—)
Infantile mortality rate per 1000 live births...							0 (25.4)
Infantile mortality rate for England & Wales							22.0 (22.5)
Legitimate Infants	per 1000 legitimate live						
births	...	...	...	...	...	0	(20.0)
Illegitimate infants	per 1000 illegitimate live						
births	...	...	...	...	...	0	(172.8)

Deaths—

		<i>Total</i>		<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>	
Deaths (all ages)	...	104	(134)	52	(67)	52	(67)
Death rate per 1000 estimated average popu- lation	...	...	...	...	...	11.4	(14.8)
Death rate of England and Wales per 1000 of population	...	...	...	...	...	11.6	(11.7)

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the year.

CAUSE							Total	M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other forms of	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	3
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	10	6	4
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	7	5	2
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	14	7	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	13	7	6
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	5
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	5	3	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	27	13	14
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
TOTAL							104	52	52

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	(0)
Other Maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	(0)
Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and still births	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	(0)

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Care of Mothers and Young Children

Health Visitors :

Miss L. Jacks, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.,
“Abbey Croft,” Abbey Road, Sandbach
Telephone Sandbach 309

Miss M. E. Slack, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.I.D.N., H.V.,
Marriott House, Sandbach
Telephone Sandbach 309

The number of new cases and the total number of attendances at the Infant Welfare Clinic have risen during the year.

As pointed out frequently in the Annual Reports of previous years, a high degree of activity continues to be maintained at this busy clinic, and it is most satisfactory to report that a start was made on the Platt Avenue site for the erection of a new Health Clinic. This will enable us to carry out our various functions satisfactorily and also enable us to practise still further the new developments that are taking place in the field of Health Education.

As it is likely that when the next Annual Report is presented we will be established in the new premises, I should like to pay tribute to the Voluntary Workers who have rendered such valuable service to the Clinic from its very inception so many years ago. Under the leadership of Mrs. Collins we have had ladies present at every Infant Welfare Clinic doing our records, serving foods, and preparing tea and also producing that family atmosphere which is so essential for this work. I know they will welcome more than anyone the move to the new premises and we are looking forward with pleasant anticipation to their valuable service in the future.

Statistics

	New cases			Total Attendances			No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor	Average per Clinic seen by Doctor
	0-1	1-2	2-5	0-1	1-2	2-5			
Sandbach Welfare Centre	145 (136)	— (—)	— (—)	2132 (2176)	641 (617)	797 (723)	102 (102)	753 (737)	14.8 (14.4)

Special Clinics for under 5

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Opthalmic Clinic	14 (17)	121 (121)	14 (11)	8.6 (11.0)
E.N.T. Clinic	9 (9)	11 (12)	10 (7)	1.1 (1.7)

Special Clinics for School Children

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Opthalmic Clinic	102 (81)	752 (654)	35 (33)	21.4 (19.8)
E.N.T. Clinic	49 (69)	68 (70)	10 (8)	6.8 (8.7)

Preparation Class

	New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held	Average per clinic
Preparation Class	71 (64)	519 (620)	50 (50)	10.3 (12.4)

Welfare Foods sold — 1959

Distribution Centre	National Full Cream	Dried Milk Half Cream	A. & D. Tablets	Cod Liver Oil	Orange Juice
Welfare Centre, Sandbach ...	52 (124)	— (—)	— (—)	40 (122)	367 (286)
Council Offices, Sandbach ...	2148 (2690)	14 (68)	764 (687)	542 (717)	4312 (4546)

Midwifery and Home Nursing

Midwifery and home nursing in the town is carried out by the following nurses :

Beatty, M. (full time)	5 Coronation Crescent, Sandbach	Sandbach 731
Hoyle, I. (Mrs.) (in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)	9 Offley Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 852
Gerrard, E. E. (in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)	647 Crewe Road, Wheelock	Sandbach 281
Wainwright, M. (Mrs.) (in conjunction with Home Nursing Duties)	87 Platt Avenue, Sandbach	Sandbach 256

Once again it is satisfactory to report that not a single complaint was received throughout the year.

Every credit is due to these nurses who under the instructions and guidance of the family doctors carry out such valuable work in the homes of the people.

Attention was drawn last year to the unsatisfactory house that Nurse Mrs. W. Wainwright was occupying. I am pleased to report that due to the consideration of the Council a house was allocated to the Nurse and a brick garage erected along side. It is absolutely essential that in order to get the best results the nursing staff should be adequately accommodated.

Births

Hospital		Home		Private Nursing Home	
Live	Still	Live	Still	Live	Still
112	2	36	1	—	—
(93)	(2)	(33)	(1)	(14)	(—)

Meals on Wheels

We have now developed in Sandbach a Meals on Wheels service for the benefit of the aged and handicapped persons. This scheme is operated by the W.V.S. and provides a minimum of two hot meals per week. These meals are kindly provided for us at a cost by Messrs. Fodens Limited and transported in a vehicle which was generously donated by several industrial firms in the town. The hot containers and the plates were provided by the County Welfare Department and the Sandbach Urban District Council subsidises each meal to the extent of 3d. and further up to full cost if necessary.

It has been found even with the short experience so far that the value of this service goes beyond that of providing hot meals, important as that is.

The actual visiting by the ladies of the W.V.S. with the meals is something positively looked forward to by the recipients. In many instances the members of the W.V.S. have been so impressed by the help these old people need that they have paid additional visits of a social nature ; have provided clothing and blankets when necessary.

Chiropody

During the year the County Health Committee brought in the Chiropody Service made free to all those whose income consisted solely of the old age pension and those in receipt of National Assistance. Lately the free service has been extended to include all those whose income does not exceed £4 per week if single or £6 per week if a couple. People whose income is between £4 and £5/10/0 if single will receive treatment at half cost and if between £6 and £8 for a couple also at half cost. This will take in a very considerable number of old people who are really in need of this service. In addition we are continuing the facilities made available in our Clinics and are also operating the scheme through recognised old peoples associations who have operated a Chiropody Scheme.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Statistics

Diphtheria Immunisation—

Pre-school children	1	(1)
School children	4	(8)
	<hr/> 5	<hr/> (9)
Reinforcing Injections	27	(30)

Whooping Cough Immunisation—

Pre-school children	—	(—)
School children	—	(—)
	<hr/> —	<hr/> (—)

Combined Immunisation (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus)—

Pre-school children	109	(118)
School children	2	(1)
	<hr/> 111	<hr/> (119)

Primary Vaccination—

Pre-school children	79	(82)
School children	1	(10)
Adults	3	(9)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	83	(101)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Re-Vaccination—

Pre-school children	—	(—)
School children	1	(6)
Adults	12	(17)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	13	(23)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Public Health Laboratory Service

The regular routine sampling of water supplies is carried out by the Water Board. The Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, is available for bacteriological analysis of water, milk, ice-cream, and food, as and when we require it. They also undertake to carry out examinations of all swabs submitted. This is a free service, and I wish to record the ever-ready help and assistance I have received from Dr. W. Parker, the Director of this Laboratory particularly in connection with food poisoning and infectious disease cases.

Ambulance and Sitting-Case Car Transport

During the year the British Red Cross Ambulance Service in Sandbach was absorbed into the County scheme and a request was made to the County Health Committee to replace the existing ambulances.

It has also become apparent that if the proper maintenance and servicing of the vehicles was to be accomplished we would require our own Ambulance Station. Steps will have to be taken in the near future to provide this.

Ambulance Figures — 1959

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sept</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Mileages—												
	1352	1991	585	2981	2472	2969	3693	3543	3217	3280	3754	3743
	(—)	(551)	(683)	(681)	(535)	(697)	(781)	(669)	(891)	(1134)	(1070)	(937)
Patients—												
	206	286	75	418	374	403	435	344	443	449	487	465
	(—)	(79)	(98)	(93)	(59)	(98)	(108)	(124)	(154)	(202)	(155)	(168)
Journeys—												
	47	57	20	88	76	95	100	100	89	87	104	103
	(—)	(17)	(24)	(22)	(20)	(27)	(34)	(23)	(27)	(35)	(32)	(29)

Utilicon Ambulance Figures — 1959

	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sept</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>
Mileages—												
	2853	1745	3450	1506	2322	2211	2423	2171	2546	2639	2662	1833
	(3646)	(2742)	(3386)	(3493)	(3517)	(3750)	(3874)	(3543)	(3766)	(3635)	(3306)	(3476)
Patients—												
	312	178	328	164	236	179	216	192	210	260	198	155
	(460)	(287)	(291)	(311)	(366)	(406)	(479)	(373)	(469)	(433)	(276)	(315)
Journeys—												
	95	55	114	44	56	60	58	60	63	68	60	59
	(114)	(82)	(106)	(98)	(114)	(122)	(116)	(96)	(112)	(107)	(100)	(96)

Domestic Help Service

Statistics relating to the Home Help Service provided in Sandbach during 1959 are as follows :

Home Helps employed during 1959—

Full time	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Temporary	...	...	...	...	...	24	(21)
Casual	...	...	...	...	...	7	(12)
						<u>31</u>	<u>(33)</u>

Home Helps employed at December 31st, 1959—

Full time	...	...	...	...	...	—	(—)
Temporary	...	...	...	...	...	10	(19)
Casual	...	...	...	...	...	3	(2)
						<hr/> 13	<hr/> (21)

Applications received during 1959—

Confinement	...	...	...	...	2	(2)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	5	(5)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	(1)
Aged and Infirm		...	...	...	6	(10)
					<hr/>	<hr/>
					13	(18)

Cases attended during 1959—

Confinement	...	...	...	...	1	(4)
Sickness	...	...	...	...	7	(5)
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1	(1)
Aged and Infirm		...	...	...	22	(23)
					<hr/> 31	<hr/> (33)

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The supply from the Arclid Works was dis-continued in November last and the district is now supplied from the Delamere Boreholes with small quantities of River Dee water from the Hurleston works occasionally. Both supplies are of moderate hardness.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During 1959 tenders were let for the following schemes and work commenced on the (a) and (c) portions of the scheme. (a)

Demolition of Elworth Sewage Disposal Works, construction of Pumping Station, Pumping Main and Sewers to convey the flow to Hind Heath Sewage Works and the enlargement of the Hind Heath Sewage Works. (b) The enlargement of the Sewer between Well Bank and the Old Sewage Works and ancillary works in connection therewith. (c) Demolition of the Cookesmere Lane Sewage Works, construction of Pumping Station and Pumping Main.

Housing

No houses were completed by the Council during the year, but on the Lightly Close Estate the construction of the roads and sewers was carried out and the first contract for 32 houses commenced.

By Private Enterprise, 30 houses were erected during 1959.

**PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

The following table gives the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1959**

DISEASE	AGE DISTRIBUTION													Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over				
Measles	11	15	25	24	25	164	46	6	6	5	—	—	327	—	—	
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	

Tuberculosis

For comparative purposes I have recorded the notifications of Tuberculosis during 1959 in conjunction with the notifications of this disease received each year since 1950.

Notifications — 1950 to 1959

	1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 5																				
5-15					1															
15-25					1				1		1		1							
25-35	1		1						1								1		1	
35-45			1												2					
45-55									1											
55-65	1		1				2						1		1					
65 & over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 5																				
5-15		1																	1	
15-25					1	1			1	1					1					
25-35	1	1			1		1		1				1		1		1			
35-45	1						1								1					
45-55																				
55-65																				
65 & over													1							
TOTAL	4	2	3	—	3	2	4	—	5	1	1	—	4	—	5	1	2	—	2	—

Deaths — 1950 to 1959

	1950		1951		1952		1953		1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959	
	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP	P	NP
MALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 5																				
5-15																				
15-25																				
25-35			1																	
35-45			1																	
45-55							1						1							
55-65			1		1				1								1			
65 & over																				
FEMALE																				
Up to 1 year																				
1- 5																				
5-15																				
15-25																				
25-35	1		1																	
35-45							1													
45-55																				
55-65			1																	
65 & over																				
TOTAL	1	—	5	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

Cases on Register at December 31st, 1959

				Up to								65 &	
				1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	over	Total
Male	Pulmonary	...	...	—	—	—	2	3	5	4	3	—	17
Female	Pulmonary	...	...	—	—	1	1	3	4	2	—	1	12
Male	Non-Pulmonary	...		—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	4
Female	Non-Pulmonary	...		—	—	—	3	1	—	1	—	—	5

The following sections of this report have been compiled by the Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. N. A. Rogers.

Public Health Inspection

Number of Inspections and visits during 1959	1952
Number of Informal Notices served during 1959	64
Number of Informal Notices complied with during 1959	68
Number of Informal Notices outstanding at 31/12/59...	2
Number of Statutory Notices served during 1959	3
Number of Statutory Notices complied with during 1959	3
Number of Statutory Notices outstanding at 31/12/59 ...	—

The position with regard to the enforcement of repairs, etc. has eased considerably, as is indicated by the very few Statutory Notices which it became necessary to serve. Nor was it found necessary to resort to Court Proceedings in this respect in any instance during the year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection

In contrast to the observations expressed in the 1958 Report, it became difficult during 1959 to maintain a full complement of Refuse Collectors. This position alongside a continuous steady increase in the number of properties in the area has made the achievement of a 7-day collection cycle almost impossible and towards the end of the year it became difficult to maintain even an 8-day cycle.

Supply of Dustbins

The Council does not operate a Dustbin Scheme under section 75 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, but a supply of dustbins is kept for sale on request. 73 properties were supplied in this way.

Refuse Disposal

Most of the refuse collected has been disposed of at the Council's "uncontrolled" tip at Malkins Bank. On this waste land owned by the Council there is still tipping space for a number of years. Nevertheless, from time to time, refuse is tipped on private land at the request of farmers for the purpose of filling and re-claiming depressions which have previously been unworkable. Sanction is given for this method of refuse disposal only where it is felt that no subsequent nuisance could arise.

Conservancy

The Council have continued the weekly collection and emptying of pail closets by direct labour. 24 houses and 3 other premises are thus served. The scheme works quite satisfactorily, and the ultimate disposal takes place at the sewage works.

Salvage

As from January 1st, 1959, the price paid for Baled Mixed Waste Paper was reduced by 10/- to £7 per ton, and the mills issued instructions that newspapers and magazines must be excluded. Although in 1951 newspapers and magazines baled separately commanded a price of £17 per ton, in 1959 the Waste Paper Merchants were prepared to offer only £3/10/0 per ton, and the Council felt that this was not a worthwhile proposition.

Cardboard cartons are still sold to a local engineering firm for packing materials.

The following amounts of salvage were disposed of during 1959 :

		£	s	d
Waste paper—55 tons	... ..	385	0	0
Cardboard boxes—6827	... ..	85	6	9
		<hr/>		
		£470	6	9
		<hr/>		

The net profit for the collection and sale of Salvage during the Financial Year ending March 31st, 1959 was £165.

Public Conveniences

There has been no improvement on the position stated in the Reports of previous years with regard to the ill-use of the Public Conveniences in the town. It appears that Sandbach is not unique in this respect and it seems that damage and abuse of public property is one of the modern evils to which we have become almost resigned.

Rodent Control

A trained Rodent Operator working under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector, spends approximately half of his time on these duties. The sudden resignation of the Rodent Operator

in July, 1959, created a temporary difficulty, but with the co-operation of the Congleton Rural District Council another employee was given facilities to acquire the necessary practical training to enable him to take over the work.

The following treatments were carried out during the year :

Business Premises	125
Agricultural Properties	106
Dwelling Houses	46
Local Authority Undertakings	23
	<hr/>
	300
	<hr/>

Annual Contracts have been entered into for the treatment by the Council of 18 commercial and 11 agricultural properties. The total income from these contracts was £156, and it is felt that the consistent testing and treatment of susceptible sites, as applied under this scheme, is a most satisfactory way of keeping down the rat and mouse population.

The sewers in the area have been treated for rats during the year and the results indicate only slight infestation.

The situation in regard to Rodent Control in the district can be considered fairly satisfactory.

Offensive Trades

There is only one business in the area—bone boiling—which is classed as an Offensive Trade. In view of the nature of the business, comparatively little nuisance is created. The firm has entered into an annual agreement with the Council for the destruction of rats.

Moveable Dwellings

During 1959 the Council issued two new licences in respect of caravans and renewed two licences previously granted. In every case the caravans were of a properly constructed type and were stationed on individual sites.

Approaches were also made concerning the development by a private individual of a large caravan site, but the Council were not sympathetic to the proposal.

Atmospheric Pollution

Steady progress has continued on the smoke elimination measures at the Salt Works which have been referred to in previous Annual Reports. Nevertheless the firm concerned found it impossible to complete the installation of new apparatus within the time allowed by the Section 2 Exemption Certificate, and the Council granted an extension of the Exemption until June 30th, 1960. There is no doubt that the installation of underfeed stokers to these salt-pans is considerably reducing the smoke emission ; and, whilst it is agreed that the problem in this instance has not been completely solved, the position is certainly much improved.

Contact has been maintained with other industrial firms in the area who have caused sporadic smoke nuisances, and invariably ready co-operation has been secured.

No steps have yet been taken by the Council with regard to the establishment of Smoke Control Areas.

HOUSING

Unfit Houses

In 1959 the Council resumed its house-building programme after a lapse of some two years. Towards the end of the year when the construction of these new houses was in progress it was at last possible to make a start on the procedure for dealing with the Council's approved programme for the clearance of unfit houses.

Demolition Orders were made in respect of 2 individual unfit houses. Representations under Section 17 of the Housing Act were made in December in respect of 6 other individual houses. The Council declared a group of 22 houses in the older part of the town to be a Clearance Area and Housing Act procedure was being pursued at the end of the year.

Clearance Areas

Number of orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Areas declared	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Individual Houses

Number of Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	2
Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	Nil

Number of houses closed in pursuance of undertakings given by owners	Nil
Number of houses closed under Section 17(1) Housing Act, 1957	Nil
Number of parts of buildings closed under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957	Nil

Repairs

Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action	22
Number of unfit houses in which defects were remedied as a result of formal action—	
(a) by owners under Public Health Acts	2
(b) by Local Authority under Public Health Acts	1
(c) under Housing Acts	Nil

Near the end of the year the Council took a bold step in approving a report prepared by the Public Health Inspector listing all the dwelling-houses within the Urban District which, by reason of age, character and structural condition could be considered as having an expected life of not more than 15 years. This information has been grouped into sections within the 15 year period and has been made available to all interested parties, so that it acts as a guide to the property-owners who are contemplating spending money on improvements and as a warning to prospective purchasers. It is also a most useful list from the Council's point of view in connection with the making of Improvement grants and in dealing with applications under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act. The list has also been referred to the Housing Committee for consideration in connection with the future building programme.

Certificates of Disrepair

Number of Applications received in 1959	8
Number of Applications approved in 1959	6
Number of Applications withdrawn in 1959	Nil
Number of Applications not approved in 1959	Nil
Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued in 1959 ...	3
Number of Undertakings given in 1959	1
Number of Undertakings accepted in 1959	1
Number of Applications for Cancellation of Certificates	Nil
Number of Applications for Cancellation approved ...	Nil
Number of Applications for Cancellation rejected	Nil

Improvement Grants

The House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, which came into force in June extended the Scheme whereby property owners could obtain financial assistance towards the carrying out of approved improvements. A new Standard Grant was introduced enabling a house-owner to claim a grant, as a right, towards the cost of installing five stated amenities. This new type of grant, together with some amendment of the Discretionary Grant scheme, created a distinct increase in the number of subsequent applications.

Discretionary Grants

No. of Applications received during 1959	...	...	...	7
No of Grants approved during 1959	...	...	...	7
No. of Grants disapproved during 1959	...	...	...	Nil
Total value of Grants approved during 1959	...	...	...	£894

Standard Grants

No. of Applications received during 1959	...	...	...	19
No. of Grants approved during 1959	...	...	...	18
No. of Grants disapproved during 1959	...	...	...	1
Total amount of maximum Grants payable	...	...	...	£2485

Of the applications covered by the above sets of figures, 16 were in respect of owner-occupied houses and 9 concerned tenanted houses.

In the case of those Standard Grants already paid it is of interest to note that the actual amounts, based on half the cost of the work, have been little over 50% of the maximum grant payable.

Rehousing

The following is a statement of the position with regard to the Register of Applications for tenancies of Council houses at the end of 1959.

Applicants on Waiting List for less than 1 year	...	...	88
Applicants on Waiting List between 1 and 2 years	...	...	13
Applicants on Waiting List between 2 and 3 years	...	...	14
Applicants on Waiting List between 3 and 4 years	...	...	3
<hr/>			
Total number of 'live' applicants on current Register...			118
<hr/>			

The above figures would not appear to indicate a very serious problem in regard to normal housing requirements, and such satisfaction as may be derived from them is undoubtedly due to the Council's policy over the years of allocating tenancies strictly in accordance with their approved points scheme.

FOOD

Slaughtering and Meat Inspection

The Public Slaughterhouse at Flatt Lane, Sandbach, controlled and operated by the Council, is the only slaughterhouse functioning in the Urban District. A further substantial increase in the throughput can again be reported. This gives rise to the problem of maintaining the throughput at a sufficiently high level to make it an economic trading proposition, yet at the same time avoiding the state where the meat inspection becomes an insufferable burden. There were few days, including week-ends, during 1959 when it was not necessary to inspect meat outside normal working hours.

The Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order, 1959, was published on February 12th, and this required each Local Authority to submit to the Minister before November 2nd, 1960 a report as to the adequacy of the slaughtering facilities in its area. The present slaughterhouse has served the needs of the area very well for the last five years, and, having in mind the Council's liability to comply with the new Slaughterhouse Hygiene and Prevention of Cruelty Regulations, it would appear advantageous for the Council to acquire the ownership of the premises.

Meat Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lam's	Pigs	Total
Animals slaughtered and Inspected	694	732	34	3881	1368	6709
<i>(There were no horses slaughtered in the Urban District during 1959)</i>						
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</i>	<i>CONDEMNATIONS</i>					
Whole carcasses con- demned	2	28	3	10	—	43
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	354	567	1	172	19	1113
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	51%	81%	12%	5%	1%	17%
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned	4	14	1	—	3	22
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	80	122	—	—	57	259
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	12%	19%	3%	—	4%	4%

Analysis in lbs. of Condemned Meat

				<i>Beef</i>	<i>Veal</i>	<i>Mutton</i>	<i>Pork</i>
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	11711	74	—	1344
Parasites	...	...	...	6770	4	342	—
Emaciation	...	...	...	280	—	136	—
Septicaemia	...	...	...	1607	108	60	—
Actinomycosis	...	...	...	230	—	—	—
Immaturity	...	...	...	—	25	—	—
Fever	...	...	...	1494	—	—	—
Abscesses	...	...	...	1023	—	22	36
Dropsy	...	...	...	7387	—	164	—
Angioma	...	...	...	277	—	—	—
Gangrene	...	...	...	—	—	65	—
Moribund	...	...	...	—	—	40	—
Necrosis	...	...	...	95	—	—	—
Pneumonia & Pleurisy				171	—	—	24
Bruising	...	...	...	332	—	—	—
Other Injuries	...	...	...	456	—	—	50
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	338	—	19	65
				32171	211	848	1519

It is interesting to observe the comparative amounts of beef condemned in the last seven years :

Average amount condemned per Beast Slaughtered

		<i>All Diseases</i>		<i>Tuberculosis only</i>
1953	...	32 lb.	...	22 lb.
1954	...	23 lb.	...	15 lb.
1955	...	14 lb.	...	10 lb.
1956	...	9 lb.	...	7 lb.
1957	...	9 lb.	...	6 lb.
1958	...	13 lb.	...	7 lb.
1959	...	24 lb.	...	8 lb.

Some explanation of these figures is necessary. Up to 1957 the meat dealt with was principally good quality beef for the local butchers' shops. In 1958 a number of beasts were slaughtered for the meat manufacturing industry. The number in this category increased very substantially in 1959, and in addition, the tuberculosis incidence was bound to be adversely affected by the slaughter of T.B. reactors which were directed to these premises by the Ministry Veterinary Officers.

Food Hygiene

With pressure of other work (including non-Public Health duties) very little work has been carried out in this field and it has not been possible to follow a policy of regular inspections of food premises.

Further stalls in the Council's Market Hall have been re-constructed and adapted specially for the sale of food. This has the effect not only of making improvements in line with the spirit of the Food Hygiene Regulations but also of improving the present drab and somewhat dilapidated appearance of the indoor market.

The number of Food Premises (in broad categories) in the Urban District is as follows :

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Public Houses, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Sweet Factory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Unsound Food

The following unsound foods were condemned upon voluntary surrender at retail stores :

105 tins Meat	...	...	...	...	...	847½ lb.
256 tins Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	339¾ lb.
257 tins Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	223½ lb.
35 tins Fish	...	...	...	...	...	30½ lb.
8 tins Soup	...	...	...	...	...	7 lb.
8 tins Creamed Rice	...	...	...	...	...	8 lb.
1 tin Cream	...	...	...	...	...	½ lb.
3 tins Evaporated Milk	...	...	...	...	...	1¾ lb.
1 tin Syrup	...	...	...	...	...	2 lb.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	13 lb.
Raw Ham	...	...	...	...	...	7 lb.
Sausage	...	...	...	...	...	48¾ lb.
Tongue	...	...	...	...	...	5¼ lb.
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	...	1 lb.
Boiled Ham	...	...	...	...	...	2½ lb.
6 Meat Pies	...	...	...	...	...	6 lb.
12 packets Coconut	...	...	...	...	...	6 lb.
						<hr/> 1550 lb. <hr/>

Milk

The position in December, 1959, with regard to Licensing and Registration was as follows :

Registered Dairies	3
Registered Distributors	9
Dealers' Licences to sell Sterilised Milk ...	5
Dealers' Licences to sell T.T. Milk	11
Dealers' Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk ...	11
Supplementary Licences for Sterilised Milk ...	1
Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk	4
Supplementary Licences for T.T. Milk	4

Ice Cream

Fifty-four premises are registered by the Local Authority for the sale of Ice-Cream. Only wrapped ice-cream was sold from these premises and no ice-cream is known to have been manufactured in the district during the year.

Other Registered Premises

Fourteen premises are registered by the Local Authority under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the preparation of cooked meats, etc. and ten premises are registered for fish frying.

Factories

This is another phase of Public Health work to which it has not been possible to devote sufficient attention during the year under review.

The following table indicates the position for 1959 :

Premises	No. on Register	No. of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority ...	33	7	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	49	9	—	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	24	14	—	—
TOTAL ...	106	30	—	—

EACHUS & SON
Printers & Stationers
SANDBACH : CHESHIRE